

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Intermountain Electronics

Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Intermountain Electronics Improves Processes with Six Sigma Training

Client Profile:

Intermountain Electronics specializes in the manufacturing and repair of electrical distribution and control equipment for use in harsh environments such as those encountered in surface and underground mining, various manufacturing plants, power generation plants, oil and gas generation and refineries. The company employs 15 people at its facility in Price, Utah.

Situation:

Intermountain Electronics has always been a progressive company, focusing on continuous improvement and meeting customer needs. In 2007 Intermountain Electronics was recognized as Utah's Manufacturer of the Year due to implementing Lean Manufacturing principles on their shop floor. This increased their efficiency by 200 percent, and they are still experiencing tremendous growth. To continue their improvement efforts, Intermountain Electronics identified key areas of their business both on the shop floor and in the front office that needed improvement. Their previous improvement efforts were effective in increasing efficiency which highlighted the need to address the sources of variation in some operations and processes. The company contacted the Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP Utah), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

MEP Utah and their partner, Promontory Management Group (PMG), identified Six Sigma training and project completion as the next step in Intermountain's continuous improvement efforts. Intermountain Electronics sent eight team members through an extensive two-week Six Sigma Black Belt training program, which provided the tools and training to specifically reduce process variation and provide controlled, stable, and predictable processes.

Results:

- * Increased sales by \$250,000.
- * Retained sales of \$250,000.
- * Reduced inventory by \$600,000.
- * Reduced lead time on critical parts.
- * Improved employee morale.
- * Achieved a more competitive and profitable position.

Testimonial:

"We enjoy working with MEP Utah because of the great insight they bring for a lot of our processes and business. The company as a whole has benefited greatly by the Six Sigma training that came recommended by MEP Utah. The Six Sigma process is fantastic; it makes sure all angles are approached and all data is included when trying to resolve issues."

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Ken Williams, Technology Specialist